

and experience to the civilian workforce.

Second, it will create an incentive for other companies to do the same, which in turn will help bring more veterans into the workforce, and with good-paying jobs at that, the types of opportunities that give veterans and their families the stability they need as they transition to civilian life.

Most importantly, as more and more companies hire more and more veterans, they will ultimately see that investing in veterans is just good for business. That is what the real incentive should be, not just an advantage in securing Federal contracts, but getting the benefit of employees who have worn the uniform, who have been trained by the greatest military in the world, and who have learned to get the job done no matter what the job is or how tough it may be.

What business wouldn't want to have employees like that?

Lastly, it bears emphasizing that this bill will cost taxpayers absolutely nothing.

We need more businesses in the private sector to recognize the value of investing in the men and women who have served our country.

To be clear, this isn't an act of charity. Veterans are not looking for a handout. They just need an opportunity to show what they can do. That is what this bill will help accomplish.

The BRAVE Act will help ensure that more veterans have those opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE for supporting this bill and for helping to bring it to the floor today.

This legislation passed unanimously in the last Congress, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to once again give it the bipartisan support it deserves.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation sponsored by Miss RICE, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2109.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REDUCING CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENT FOR EDITH NOURSE ROGERS STEM SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2196) to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2196

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDUCTION IN CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENT FOR EDITH NOURSE ROGERS STEM SCHOLARSHIP.

Section 3320(b)(4)(A)(i) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "more than the standard 128 semester (or 192 quarter) credit hours" and inserting "at least the standard 120 semester (or 180 quarter) credit hours".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2196.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2196, a bill to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program.

H.R. 2196 is a technical correction to the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship, which was codified into law with the passage of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the Forever GI Bill.

This STEM scholarship program, named after the former chairwoman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Edith Nourse Rogers, provides veterans who are enrolled in STEM programs with additional support if their GI benefits are exhausted before they complete an undergraduate degree.

Unfortunately, this much needed scholarship program is crippled by the qualification criteria, which necessitates that veterans must be enrolled in STEM programs that require more than 128 semester credit hours to graduate.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, these criteria only allow veterans enrolled in three programs at higher learning institutions to participate in this great scholarship program.

Now, this was not the intent of the Congress. H.R. 2196 would correct this oversight by reducing the required semester credit hours of a degree program from 128 to 120, to allow more programs at a wider array of institutions of higher learning to qualify for the program.

Now, veterans across the country are enrolling in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math based degree pro-

grams at rapid rates, and we should continue to encourage veterans to pursue STEM programs and employment in STEM fields.

By continuing to invest in our veterans, we are investing in the American economy and our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative BARR, Representative LEVIN, and Ranking Member ROE for their hard work on this excellent bill. I would especially like to thank Chairman LEVIN and the rest of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee for their bipartisan work to get this bill to the floor in a timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the rest of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2196. This bill, which is introduced by an outstanding new member of our committee, Representative BARR of Kentucky, would clarify the eligibility for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program.

This program, enacted as part of the Forever GI Bill, authorizes extra GI bill funding to help veterans complete their undergraduate degrees in a STEM field.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, we all know about the need to fill vacancies for high-paying jobs in the STEM field. The Smithsonian Science Education Center projected that, in 2018, 2.4 million STEM jobs went unfilled. This program is critical to ensure that veterans are the ones who fill these vacancies. However, because of the way the law was drafted, most students are prevented from using this new benefit due to a technical glitch that excludes all but a few STEM programs.

With this program going live on August 1, just over a month from now, I am grateful to Representative BARR for quickly stepping up to the plate and offering this bill to fix the law's language. Hopefully, with cooperation from our friends in the Senate, we can make this change before August.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2196.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2196, which would amend the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Scholarship program and the Forever GI Bill, named after Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers, who served 18 consecutive terms in Congress and was a tireless advocate for veterans throughout the 21st century. This legislation follows the spirit of this pioneering Congresswoman and ensures that our veterans are able to access the benefits that they have earned.

The Rogers STEM Scholarship provides up to 9 months of additional

Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to qualifying veterans and Fry Scholars seeking an undergraduate STEM degree or who have earned a STEM degree and are seeking a teaching certification.

Our bill makes a necessary and timely change to the eligibility requirement for the Rogers STEM Scholarship program from 128 required credit hours to a much more common 120 credit-hour requirement.

After passage of the Forever GI Bill, the VA discovered that there were only three States where the average STEM degree exceeds 128 required credit hours, meaning that the vast majority of veterans would be unable to access this benefit.

This scholarship is set to launch August 1, as was recently said, of this year, and it is incumbent on Congress to make this fix before then to ensure that more student veterans pursuing STEM degrees are able to utilize the additional funding Congress provided for them in the Forever GI Bill.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman LEVIN, for his support in introducing this bill, as well as Ranking Member ROE and Representative RADEWAGEN for their cosponsorship as well.

This is a win-win. There is a labor supply shortage, especially in critical STEM fields, and so employers need STEM-educated workers. At the same time, there is no better group of people than veterans who know teamwork, who know about putting a cause greater than themselves, and who, in many cases, have skills that are particularly adaptive to the STEM fields where this is a win for them, as well, in their movement to civilian life.

I am proud to see this legislation pass by voice vote in our committee, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to ensure we are setting up our veterans for success and job security after their service to our Nation.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative RADEWAGEN for yielding to me, and I thank my friend, Mr. BARR, for his leadership on this important issue.

We live in an information-based technological world. As we look around us, all our lives are touched by STEM innovation. It is the science- and math-based education that will continue to shape our country and world and drive our economy into the next century.

H.R. 2196 is a commonsense, bipartisan fix to give student veterans who are enrolled in STEM programs more flexibility to utilize the educational benefits they earned through their service.

By allowing student veterans to take additional credit hours, such as additional math and science courses, the Edith Nourse Rogers Scholarship helps veterans receive a strong STEM education, which is essential for succeeding in technological industries.

As I travel around my district in Pennsylvania, I consistently hear from local businesses about the widening skills gap, and I know these are sentiments echoed in districts throughout the Nation. Our workforce demands more individuals with a STEM education, and who better to have on the front lines of our evolving global economy than men and women who bravely served our country.

We owe it to our student veterans the ability to pursue a STEM education and to ensure they have the tools and resources they need as they transition back into civilian life. This legislation takes an important step in doing just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to vote in support of this bill.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I want to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2196, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MALINOWSKI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2196.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPOSING SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-45)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order with respect to Iran that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995.

I am enclosing a copy of the order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 24, 2019.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 445 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3055.

Will the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1518

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, with Mr. SABLÁN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Friday, June 21, 2019, amendment No. 221 printed in House Report 116-119 offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 229 OFFERED BY MR. WOODALL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 229 printed in part B of House Report 116-119.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 193.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 445, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, if you had granted me more than 5 minutes, I would have spent much more of that time talking about how good it was to see you there in the chair, but you will just have to know I am feeling it here, even though I can't belabor that point.

I serve on the Transportation Committee, Mr. Chairman, and my amendment proposes to strike jurisdiction that belongs to the Transportation Committee from the appropriations bill. Now, as you know, clause 2 of the House Rules prohibits legislating on an appropriations bill, but the House Rules Committee waived those rules as this bill came to the floor, so the only alternative I have is to come and try to strike that provision.

The truth is that we have not had a single hearing on this provision in the Transportation Committee, Mr. Chairman. We have not had a single witness testify in the Transportation Committee. We have had bills sitting in the Transportation Committee that purport to deal with this topic since January and have not called a single bit of activity directed in this direction, despite having moved a whole host of bills to the House floor already this year.

I see that my friends, the chairman of the Transportation Committee and the chair of the subcommittee, have put out a Dear Colleague encouraging the defeat of this amendment, surrendering this jurisdiction of the Transportation Committee to the Appropriations Committee.